

## **SENTENCED TO HANG**

On last Friday afternoon in the circuit court of Pocahontas county, Theodore Carr was found guilty of murder in the first degree, for the killing of Lock Sharp, near Edray, on October 30, 1928.

On Monday morning Judge Summers H. Sharp sentenced him to be hung on Friday, June 14, 1929.

At the time Carr shot and killed Sharp he also killed his third wife, Mrs. Lydia Houdyshell Carr, and shot at his step-son, Thilbert Houdyshell.

The killing grew out of trouble over a land suit in which Sharp was purchasing a tract of land from Mrs. Carr. The killing took place in a field near Warwick. Squire Uriah Bird was an eye witness of the tragedy.

The trial began on Thursday morning. The case went to the jury at noon on Friday. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. In pronouncing the

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first degree. In pronouncing the sentence, Judge Sharp said:

"Theodore Carr, you will stand up. Do you know of anything to say for yourself why the judgment of the Court should not be pronounced against you at this time?

(No response)

"You have been found guilty by a jury of your peers of first degree murder and they not having seen fit to make recommendation to this Court, consequently, there is nothing for the Court to do but carry out the extreme penalty of the law.

"You have been found guilty of one of the highest offenses known to the law, that of taking the life of your fellowman without justification, or excuse. I doubt whether the criminal annals of this County will disclose a more brutal homicide than this with which you have been charged and convicted. The evidence discloses that without any provocation, I might say, on the date of this felony charged, you armed yourself with a gun, evidently knowing these folks were over there running off this piece of land, you go over there and without giving Lock Sharp warning and without giving him a chance you deliberately and willfully shot him

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In pursuance of the verdict of the jury and in obedience to law, it is the judgment of this Court that upon the rising of this Court you be taken from the jail of this County to the penitentiary of this State which is located in the City of Moundsville, County of Marshall and there confined until the 14th day of June, 1929, on which date within the walls of the penitentiary of this State you will be hung by the neck until dead. From this time forward the time will bear heavily with you in the solitude of your abode and the only admonition or exhortation I can give you would be that you look to the God above, the Prince of Peace for peace of mind and comfort of soul. You are remanded to jail."

Carr is fifty years of age. He is a son of the late Peter Carr, of Clawson. He is the father of a number of children.

STATE AID

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**GINIA: APRIL 28 1927**

## **A CONFESSION**

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rleston Gazette of a wonderful  
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How silly it seems to me that

# Carr Begins Last Fight

## To Hang June 14; Will Seek Executive Clemency From Conley

Theodore D. Carr, through his counsel, began his last fight Saturday to escape the gallows June 14.

Denied an appeal from a conviction for first degree murder, Frank R. Hill, counsel, made preliminary arrangements at the governor's office to present an application for commutation of sentence to life imprisonment.

Hill submitted a petition to the supreme court for a writ of error through which he sought to have the appellate court review the record of the case for the purpose of obtaining a new trial. The petition was refused after which Hill visited the gover-



told Jenkins he would file the application this week.

Carr was sentenced to be hanged by Circuit Court Judge Summers H. Sharp following his conviction for slaying Lock Sharp, a neighbor. Carr was also indicted for slaying his wife, who was killed at the same time but he was not tried under the latter indictment. The defense claimed temporary insanity caused by Carr's brooding over financial and marital troubles. He has been estranged from his wife.

Carr is now occupying a cell in murderers row in the state penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va. He is scheduled to be hanged on June 14, and was placed in the death cell Tuesday morning, June 4.

The only thing that can save him from death is executive clemency from Governor Conley.

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In some manner he incident, which resulted using his death in a Va., hospital Friday.

on of the late Jacob arrived by his mother's, Ruby Georgia and

## Day Lift on Politics

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is., June 8.—Kiwanis civic club in which ways been taboo—the words "democratic" mentioned as members discuss public

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promote fellowship, co-operation, politics

## Alienists Observe Theodore Carr

### Examination Made at Request of Governor; No Report Yet Given Out

Two alienists visited the death house at the state penitentiary, Moundsville, yesterday to observe Theodore Carr, condemned to hang Friday night. They were Dr. L. W. Guthrie of Huntington, and Dr. J. G. Pettitt, of Terra Alta, who went at the request of Governor William G. Conley. They are expected to report today or tomorrow on the prisoner's mental condition. A petition for clemency is pending before the governor.

According to a dispatch in a Wheeling newspaper, since entering the death house Friday night, Carr's condition has appeared to grow worse. He is broken both physically and mentally, and moans and weeps day and night. He scarcely touches his food. Lately, the dispatch says, he has been complaining of a pain in the back of his head. Should he continue to lose strength, prison officials fear it may be necessary to carry him to the scaffold.

## Spanish War Vets To Meet in Parkersburg

The annual state encampment of the United Spanish American War Veterans will be held in Parkersburg on June 24 and 25. Colonel Lee

time, and abdominal wounds or operations.

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## Theodore Carr Taken To Moundsville Mon.; To Hang June 14th

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### Petition to Commute Sentence Will Be Submitted to Governor Conley.

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Guards, sent from the State Penitentiary, Moundsville, left here Monday with Theodore Carr, 50, farmer, who is under sentence to hang June 14th, for the murder of his brother-in-law, Lock Sharp. He was sentenced May 27 but was not taken to prison because of an appeal pending in the state supreme court. The appeal was denied.

Carr shot and killed Sharp, and his wife, Lydia Howdyshell, last November as they were surveying a piece of land on which he claimed he had forbidden them to trespass. His trial was held at the March term of Circuit Court.

It is understood that a petition for a stay of execution will be presented to Governor Conley.

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# Journal

VA., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1929

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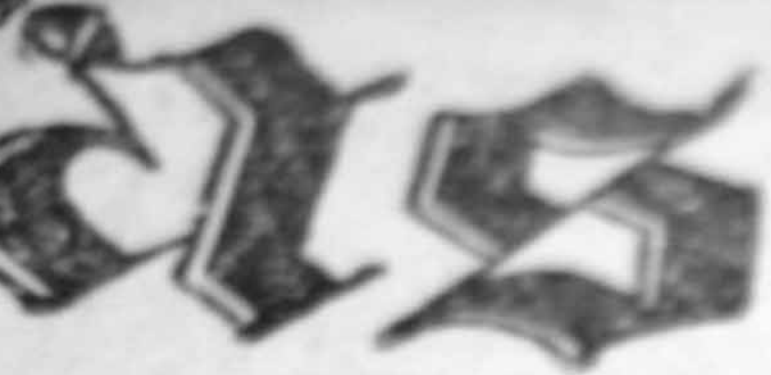
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**IA, MARCH 21, 1929**

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**GREENBANK DISTRICT  
TEACHERS 1929-30**



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The trial began on Thursday morning. The case went to the jury at noon on Friday. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree.

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## STATE AID

Teachers' drafts are still being held up due to the fact that the State A



ld, 60 acres of land in Little Lev-  
District, \$770.00.  
S. Cochran and wife to Charles  
ong, 2 acres of land in Green-  
ank District, \$100.00.

#### STATE MEDICAL EXAMS

TO BE HELD JULY 9-10

Medical examinations for those  
to desire to practice medicine in  
Virginia will be held in Mart-  
burg July 9-10th, it was an-  
nounced today by Dr. W. T. Hen-  
ry, state health commissioner.  
The Public Health Council, the li-  
censing board of the state, will also  
view all doctors who desire li-  
cense through reciprocity.

#### BANKERS MEET

Over 200 bankers, from all parts  
of Virginia attended the annual  
meeting of the State Bankers As-  
sociation held in Bluefield Thursday.  
Fleming, of Grafton, presided  
at the meeting. None of the local  
bankers attended.

#### WEDDING

On June the 13th, at the Marlin-  
ton Methodist parsonage Isaac Frank-  
lin and Helen Dorothy Curry  
were married by Rev. S. R. Neel.  
Young people are residents of  
the community.

John Cunningham, of Elkins,  
was the guest of Miss Beryl Mar-

## Theodore Carr Pays Penalty Friday; Faces Gallows With Steady Nerve

Theodore Carr was hanged at the  
state prison, Friday, June 14, for the  
slaying of Lock Sharp on October 30,  
1929. In contrast to demeanor while  
in the death house, when he appear-  
ed unnerved, he walked coolly to the  
gallows and payed the penalty. The  
trap was sprung at 8:58 and he was  
pronounced dead nine and one-half  
minutes later.

"Goodbye" was the last word ut-  
tered when asked if he had any state-  
ment to make before the trap was  
sprung. He had been praying  
throughout the day with Rev. W. C.  
Herold, prison chaplain, who accom-  
panied him on his death walk. He  
walked the fifteen feet from the  
death cell to the execution chamber  
unassisted.

The body was claimed by his son,  
Cecil Carr, and was shipped to Claw-  
son, this county Sunday. The funer-  
al was held Monday afternoon by  
Rev. K. V. Bowen, pastor of the Mar-  
lington Presbyterian Church.

At the invitation of Warden L. M.  
Robinson, twenty persons were pres-  
ent but none witnessed the execution.

The condemned man's last hours  
were spent with his son, two brothers  
and the prison chaplain.

Carr had been pronounced sane

after an examination Wednesday by  
Dr. L. V. Guthrie, superintendent  
Huntington state hospital. In his re-  
port the Dr. said, 'Carr is somewhat  
depressed but he is not insane and  
understands the nature and quality of  
his acts and the difference between  
right and wrong.'

Appeals from the decision of the  
Pocahontas county court were denied  
by the state supreme court and a pe-  
tition for executive clemency was de-  
nied by Governor Wm. G. Conley.

The shooting occurred on the Carr  
property. Carr had become involved  
in financial difficulties and had also  
become separated from his wife.  
The property had been sold under  
court order and had been bid in by  
the wife although the sale yet re-  
quired confirmation by the court.  
Mrs. Carr, Sharp, her son and Uriah  
Bird, a surveyor, were on the farm  
for the purpose of laying out a tract  
the woman had contracted to sell to  
Sharp when Carr appeared armed  
with a shot gun.

Without a word, the evidence  
showed, Carr went close to Sharp  
who was driving a stake in the  
ground and shot him through the  
heart. Young Howdyshell started to

(Continued on page eight)



## THEODORE S. CARR PAYS PENALTY WITH OWN LIFE

(Continued from page one)

run and two shots were fired at him, both missing. Still without a word Carr turned around and started up the hill toward his boarding house. At the same time Mrs. Carr began running away in an opposite direction and this attracted Carr's attention. He pursued her and Mrs. Carr stopped and awaited her husband's approach. They had a few words and the shot gun again became an instrument of death. Leaving the body of his wife in the field Carr walked up the hill meeting his daughter on the way. She asked about her mother.

Plead Temporary Insanity

Temporary Insanity resulting from

## Plead Temporary Insanity

Temporary insanity resulting from brooding over his financial and marital troubles formed the basis of Carr's defense. His attorneys contended that Carr became obsessed with the idea that Sharp was encouraging his wife in her actions toward him and that the two of them were manufacturing liquor on the Carr farm during Carr's absence at intervals in the lumber camps. Previous to the day of the double tragedy defense witnesses testified Carr in brooding over his troubles was frequently found crying and acting in "in a most peculiar manner" and showed "every evidence of great depression and temporary insanity." Carr maintained at the trial that he had no recollection of what transpired from the time he left the boarding house until the time he met his daughter on the return trip.

Carr was indicted February 13, was brought to trial on March 14 and convicted on the following day of first degree murder without recommendation for mercy.

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Mr. and Mrs.  
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Carr was indicted February 13, was brought to trial on March 14 and convicted on the following day of first degree murder without recommendation for mercy. Judge Summers H. Sharp, in sentencing Carr to be hanged reviewed briefly the facts of the case.

"You have been found guilty of one of the highest offenses known to the law, that of taking the life of your fellow man without justification or excuse," Judge Sharp told Carr. "I doubt whether the criminal annals of the county will disclose a more brutal homicide than this of which you have been charged and convicted."

#### DENTAL NOTICE

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brother-in-law, Lock Sharp, at the Carr farm a mile east of Edray, on the Clover Lick Road. Carr also shot two or three times at his step son, Thilbert Houdyshell. He got some small shot in his leg, but is not much hurt. Squire Uriah Bird witnessed the killing. Carr is in jail.

Mrs. Carr, Lock Sharp and Squire Bird and young Houdyshell were engaged in surveying some land at Warwick, which Sharp was preparing to buy from his sister-in-law Mrs. Carr. About four o'clock just as the last stakes were being set, Theodore Carr came up, and without a word to anyone shot Sharp dead; the charge from a sixteen guage shot gun striking him below the heart. He then turned the gun on Thilbert Houdyshell, shooting at him two or three times, knocking his hat off and wounding him slightly in the legs as he ran behind a straw stack. Then Carr shot at his wife as she was making off, striking her in the hand. She turned back toward him, asking for mercy, and Carr shot her in the breast. She died almost instantly.

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sold for debt; and Mrs. Carr bought it in. To help meet the purchase price she was preparing to sell part of the land to Lock Sharp. Carr objected to the sale, and it is reported that he had made threats that he would kill Mrs. Carr and Sharp if they tried to put through the deal.

Carr is fifty years old. He is a son of the late Peter Carr of Clawson. He is the father of two children by Mrs. Carr, and a number of children by a former marriage.

Mrs. Carr was around forty years of age; she was a daughter of William E Sharp of Woodrow. She is survived by six children, four of them of a former marriage. On Thursday morning her body was taken to Mt. Zion graveyard in the Huntersville district and buried beside the grave of her first husband, Ervine Houdyshell.

Lock Sharp was 30 years of age; son of the late David Sharp, of near Marlinton. He was a blacksmith by trade. He is survived by his wife and their three children. On Thursday his body was buried at the grave





**City**

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**NOVEMBER 1, 1928**

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above quotations need no com-